

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, July 29, 2005

MPDC PUBLISHES EVALUATION OF THE REALIGNMENT OF PSA BOUNDARIES

On May 2, 2004, the MPDC implemented a major restructuring of its Police Service Areas (PSAs), following in-depth analysis, public discussions and DC Council review. The new structure was designed to enhance police services in District neighborhoods and increase community involvement in targeting crime. MPD aimed to accomplish this by aligning the PSAs more closely with DC neighborhoods, improving police coordination with other city services in addressing problems that affect crime, and giving Commanders the staffing flexibility to fight crime more effectively at the neighborhood level. The restructured plan reduced the number of PSAs from 83 to 44 (now 45, with the subsequent addition of one PSA in the Sixth District), thus creating new boundaries for all of the PSAs as well as for five of the seven police districts. Now, the MPDC has published a report evaluating the changes to the PSA structure during the first year of the realignment. The document focuses on three primary topics: staffing, deployment flexibility and support for Policing for Prevention, the MPDC's strategy of community policing. It concludes that while there are still areas for improvement, the PSA Boundary Realignment has generally met its goals and objectives. The Department is meeting its minimum staffing commitments in terms of officers and lieutenants in most of the PSAs. At the same time, cross-PSA dispatching has been reduced and response times have improved. Additional MPDC programs—including the Hot Spot Initiative—are thriving as well, in part because managers have increased flexibility in terms of deployment. Finally, residents are better notified about the date and location of PSA meetings, and have greater access through listservs and other electronic communications.

- ① Read the full report (in PDF) at:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/frames.asp?doc=/mpdc/lib/mpdc/info/districts/pdf/psa_boundary_realignment_evaluation.pdf

- ① For more information about community policing in DC, go to:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,3,Q,548411,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,1,asp

CHECKPOINT STRIKEFORCE UNITES REGION IN COMBATING DRUNK DRIVING

Even as overall traffic fatalities have declined sharply in DC in recent years, alarming casualty figures demonstrate that drunk driving is still a serious problem in the DC metropolitan area. In 2003, the latest year for which regional data is available, drunk driving took the lives of 122 individuals in the Northern Virginia/suburban Maryland/Washington, DC area - a 56 percent increase from 1998. What's more, alcohol-related fatalities have increased for five consecutive years. To reverse this alarming trend, agencies from across the region, including the MPDC, have joined the Checkpoint Strikeforce sobriety checkpoint and public awareness campaign. Throughout the remainder of 2005, law enforcement agencies are deploying a network of sobriety checkpoints, effectively erasing jurisdictional borders with this key tool to fight drunk driving. Enforcement efforts are supported by a robust (\$394,225) paid media effort to remind citizens of the many dangers and consequences of impaired driving. The campaign is supported by a grant from the District Department of Transportation, Maryland Highway Safety Office and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

- ① Learn more about Checkpoint Strikeforce at:

<http://app.mpdc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=81000>

- ① For information about drunk driving laws and penalties in DC, go to:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547858,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,1,asp

MPDC HARBOR PATROL STRESSES SAFETY THROUGHOUT THE BOATING SEASON

With summer in full swing, the MPDC's Harbor Patrol reminds boaters to respect the water and practice important safety measures. In particular, boaters are reminded of the importance of personal flotation devices – or “PFDs,” for short. US Coast Guard regulations require that all boats have a wearable type PFD for each person on board or being towed. Each PFD must be in good condition, readily available, and the proper size for the intended wearer. In addition, boats 16 feet in length or longer must carry a Type IV throwable device. Most adults need an extra 7-12 pounds of buoyancy to keep their heads above water. A PFD can provide that “extra lift” to keep you afloat until help comes. Your weight isn't the only factor on how much extra lift you need. A person's fat, lung size, clothing and water conditions are also important.

PATERNITY AMNESTY SET FOR AUGUST 1-13

From August 1 through August 13, the Office of the Attorney General will be holding a Paternity Amnesty Session. This amnesty session is to provide individuals a time period to respond to court and resolve paternity issues, rather than having a warrant issued or served. At the present time, there are on average 600 paternity warrants on file for service within the District of Columbia. This does not include subjects that are not in compliance with court orders on child support or other issues regarding paternity. The Child Support Enforcement Divisions within Maryland and Virginia will be in collaboration with the District Government's Amnesty Program.

Subjects wanted on a Paternity Warrant shall be directed to respond to 451 5th Street, NW, 5th Floor during the following dates and hours to resolve their issues.

- August 1, 3, 8, 10: 8 am–7 pm
- August 2, 4, 5: 8 am–5 pm
- August 6 and 13: 10 am–2 pm

Ten members from the Paternity Warrant Unit will be working during the listed hours. Please refer any questions to 727-3800.

NEWS & NOTES

National Night Out Reminder. Don't forget to join your neighbors, your neighborhood police officers and other members of the community in celebrating the 22nd annual National Night Out against crime on Tuesday, August 2. Complete details are at http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,547053,mpdcnav_gid,1541.asp.

Talk with Chief Ramsey. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls during two upcoming media appearances: from 4-5 pm on Wednesday, August 3, on News Channel 8; and from 10-11 am on Thursday, August 4, on WTOP Radio's “Ask the Chief” program.

Drug Free Zone in Fourth District. Metropolitan Police will be enforcing DC's anti-loitering law, Thursday through Monday, in PSA 403. Get information at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/currentdfz>.

① For more information about PFDs and their use and care, as well as other safety and equipment requirements, visit the Harbor Patrol website at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/harborpatrol>

① The Harbor Patrol offers boating safety courses that are required of anyone who operates a boat in DC. Courses run through September. Get the 2005 schedule of safety courses at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/harborsafetyclasses>

① For information on career opportunities in the MPDC – both sworn and civilian – visit: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,537771,mpdcnav_gid,1523,mpdcnav,131417,_.asp

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 7/29/05

- ◆ 2005: 103
- ◆ 2004: 111
- ◆ % Change: -7.2%
- ◆ Closure Rate: 55.3% (57 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 7/23/05

- ◆ Total: 973
- ◆ Drugs: 186
- ◆ Weapons: 22
- ◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 14
- ◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 52

Juvenile Activity week end. 7/23/05

- ◆ Arrests: 47
- ◆ Curfew Violations: 113
- ◆ Truants: 0

Firearm Recoveries as of 7/27/05

- ◆ July: 145
- ◆ 2005 Total: 1,376

Traffic Fatalities as of 7/29/05

- ◆ 2005: 23
- ◆ 2004: 31
- ◆ % Change: --25.8%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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